

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 EUR-12 XMB-02
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, AG, PINS
SUBJ: ALGERIAN HIJACKING POLICY

REFS: A) STATE 013411(NOTAL; B) ALGIERS 0113(NOTAL) ET SUPRA

1. SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 17 THAT GOA POSITION ON HIJACKING HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1973; AND ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED PER DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE BEING CONSIDERED AT HIGHER LEVELS OF MFA. WHILE AWARE OF URGENCY OF MATTER MFA OFFICIAL COULD GIVE NO INDICATION WHEN FURTHER ANSWERS MIGHT BE GIVEN. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA OFFICIAL OURABAH TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 17 THAT GOA POLICY ON HIJACKING REMAINS EXACTLY AS SET FORTH IN THE PRESENTATION OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN RAHAL DURING THE 30 JULY 1973 MEETING IN NEW YORK OF THE SPECIAL UN COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

3. OURABAH SUMMARIZED ALGERIAN POSITION AS DISTINGUISHING THREE FORMS OF TERRORISM: BANDITRY (E.G. HIJACKING FOR RANSOM); "ORGANIZED
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MASSACRE SUCH AS THAT CARRIED OUT BY PORTUGAL IN ANGOLA IN 1965"; AND THIRD, POLITICAL TERRORISM OF WHICH THERE ARE VARIOUS KINDS. OURABAH ASSERTED GOA CONDEMNED FIRST TWO FORMS BUT BELIEVED THIRD FORM REQUIRED SERIOUS EXAMINATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BEFORE POLICY COULD BE DRAWN.

4. FOR THE RECORD, SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS POSED TO OURABAH (REFTEL)

FOLLOWS: A. WHERE ARE JAL HIJACKERS, RED ARMY PRISONERS RELEASED BY JAPANESE AND RANSOM MONEY INVOLVED IN JAL HIJACKING? B. HOW DOES EXISTING ALGERIAN LAW ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM RELATE TO JAL CASE AND CURRENT JAL HIJACKING POLICY? C. IF THE GOA POSITION ON HIJACKING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE JAL HIJACKING, HOW WOULD THE GOA MAKE ITS NEW POSITION KNOWN TO POTENTIAL HIJACKERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC? D. DID GOA INTEND TO ADHERE TO HAGUE OR MONTREAL CONVENTIONS AND IF NOT, WHAT ARE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR NOT DOING SO? E. IF GOA ACCEPTED THAT A FUTURE PLANE SHOULD LAND IN EXTREMIS WOULD GOA FIND A WAY TO PREVENT THE TERRORISTS FROM GETTING OUT AND OPERATING ELSEWHERE? WOULD GOA EITHER TRY HIJACKERS OR EXTRADITE THEM? F. WOULD GOA BE INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE USG ASSISTANCE WITH AIRPORT SECURITY AND IF SO WHAT KIND?

5. EMBOFF STRESSED IN JANUARY 4 MEETING U.S. PUBLIC CONCERN WITH PREVENTING TERRORISTS FROM OPERATING ELSEWHERE AFTER THEIR HIJACKED AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN GIVEN SANCTUARY. HE ALSO NOTED CURRENT U.S. LEGISLATURE AND ITS POTENTIAL INFLUENCE ON EXIMBANK LENDING; CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST; AND, ESPECIALLY, THE RELEVANCE OF ALGERIA'S CURRENT POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM TO SECRETARY VANCE'S SCHEDULED JANUARY 23 APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SENATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

6. OURABAH SAID THERE WERE NO OTHER ALGERIAN LAWS PERTAINING TO PROSECUTION FOR TERRORISM BESIDES 1973 LEGISLATION.

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7. OURABAH SAID ALL QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1973 PRESENTATION AT UN (PARA2) WERE BEING STUDIED AT HIGHER LEVELS OF MFA. HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SAY WHEN WE WOULD RECEIVE ANSWERS TO THEM.

8. COMMENT: OURABAH'S RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE HERE IS TOUGHER, AND MORE WHAT WE ARE USED TO HEARING HERE, THAN IS AMBASSADOR MAOUI'S PRESENTATION DESCRIBED IN STATE 013411. SPECIFICALLY, NO GOA OFFICIAL HERE HAS EVER CONDEMNED TERRORISM UNEQUIVOCALLY AS MAOUI HAS DONE. WE WILL AWAIT WITH INTEREST ANY FOLLOW-UP WE MAY RECEIVE TO OUR DEMARCHE HERE.HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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